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No. 16

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TENNEY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 25, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CLAUDIA TENNEY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

REMEMBERING LIN BREHMER, A CHICAGO TREASURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, almost 11 years ago today, I spoke on the anniversary of two Chicago treasures: Radio station WXRT and one of its beloved hosts, Lin Brehmer.

This weekend, we lost Lin at the age of 68 after a long battle with cancer. Lin was a Chicago icon, a poet, a Renaissance man, and a friend. For my colleagues who have not lived in Chicago, let me explain.

In the movie, "Almost Famous," there is a scene where the protagonist's oldest sister has left her record collection, and she tells him, "Look under your bed. It will set you free." That is what XRT did for us in Chicago and that is what Lin did for me and so many Chicagoans.

Before XRT, AM radio, a dry, repetitive desert was our only option for music. After XRT, we were transformed. It became a 24-hour station in 1976, demonstrating our city's unique commitment to independent thinking and an unbridled celebration of art and music.

Like many others, XRT linked us to a new world. XRT encouraged me to leave my sterile environment and travel to the Earl of Old Town to see Steve Goodman and my first concert at the Aragon Ballroom to see Mott the Hoople and the New York Dolls, not to mention other famous haunts like the Metro, the Vic, Checkerboard Lounge, to see greats like Iggy Pop, David Bowie, Muddy Waters, Frank Zappa, Roxy Music, and so many others.

When Lin became the music director at WXRT in 1984, he helped introduce us to new music, new genres, and new emotions. Today, when so much of music is driven by algorithms and data, it can be difficult to imagine a time when a station could often be steered by a single man's eclectic tastes, but that is what Lin did. He played what he wanted to hear, and somehow, he always knew what the city needed to hear.

He opened my eyes to the true power of music. He taught me that music can show you new worlds, can help you understand new perspectives. It can often soothe during difficult times and inspire you to explore what you never considered exploring before.

Lin Brehmer was my friend, but I recognize that I am far from the only one who could claim that coveted title. He was born a New Yorker and began

his radio career filling in at his university's student-run station during the summer.

The first song he ever performed was The Beatles' "Within You Without You." Later, he would explain that he chose it because "I have always felt that life flows within you, but most of all without you."

At Albany's WQBK-FM, he became known as the "Reverend of Rock 'n' Roll" for his penchant for reciting poetry during song introductions. Lin came to Chicago in 1984 to become the music director, and his taste left an indelible mark on the station and on the entire city.

He hosted the morning drive for more than 30 years talking to thousands of Chicagoans over the years on their daily commutes. He loved the Cubs, Chicago's music, theater, and dining, and he shared those loves with us.

From Lin, we learned about the best restaurants in the city. We shared in the Cubs' wins and often losses, and gained new perspectives from his essays in "Lin's Bin," a rare combination of nostalgia, humor, empathy, kindness, and spirituality.

I was honored to have lunch with Lin at some of Chicago's most iconic locales like Manny's and Ann Sather's, and to have spent a memorable Cubs' game at his side.

As he himself described, he regularly went out in his "eating pants," an outfit with enough give to accommodate another Chicago meal at places like the Wiener's Circle.

Last July, he shared with his listeners that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer and began a leave of absence to undergo treatment. This November, I know I wasn't the only Chicagoan who was delighted when he briefly returned to the airwaves.

Now, during his time at WXRT, he was named music director of the year three times and was voted the music director of the decade by readers of the

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Hard Report. He was so much more than a radio host. He was Chicago's best friend in the whole world.

When something big happened, Chicago would turn to Lin for his take on the events. Whether celebration or tragedy, he knew what to say. Now in the wake of his loss, we turn to the dial wanting.

He was married to his college sweetheart, Sara, and they shared a son, Wilson. They were both by his side in his final moments. My thoughts and deepest condolences are with his family and with all Chicagoans as we mourn his loss.

In closing, as Lin always reminded us, never take anything for granted. It is great to be alive.

FOOD SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam Speaker, today I address something that is near and dear to everyone's heart, and that is food security.

One of my biggest concerns right now, as I have become educated on the things that concern Americans, is the fact that all around the world right now, we are facing food shortages. A lot of this is created by our own actions.

If you look in Ukraine right now, you have food rotting in bins because of a war. The breadbasket of Europe is not going to be producing crops in the next year because of the war.

In China, you have massive pollution which is contaminating their agricultural output.

Meanwhile, you have countries like India that are reliant on foreign fertilizer that are going to be choked off because of the environmental movement.

You have the Netherlands and Germany reducing their nitrates in their fertilizers, which they haven't done since World War I, which created a famine back then.

In the United States, we have a third of our chickens and our eggs that are being reduced because of Avian Flu.

Meanwhile, we are allowing Chinese nationals and billionaires to buy up millions of acres of farmland. This is concerning for many reasons. If we thought that the pandemic was a reason for government to overreach, if we thought that that was going to be a crisis, imagine what it would be like if we ran out of food, if we have food shortages.

When you realize that we had people panicking over toilet paper, imagine what they will do when they panic when our cupboards are bare. This could be a worldwide reason for war.

It is also another reason for government to increase their control. There is always a reason for people to turn to the government to solve the problems that the government created; and that

is my main concern today, to be something proactive rather than reactive.

We see it coming. We can see that any foreign national country could come up with a virus to contaminate our livestock or even our crops; and yet, we are doing nothing to proactively make sure that Chinese nationals can't buy farmland in America; that billionaires can't buy millions of acres of farmland and artificially increase prices during a food shortage.

We, as Congress, need to be proactive. We need to reach out and make sure we are doing things to strategically protect our food resources, both here and abroad.

We need to fight back this idea that the environmental movement shouldn't use fertilizer, shouldn't produce agriculture; shouldn't be having foresight to protect human life over all else.

Madam Speaker, I propose that Congress be realistic in the way we allow people to purchase. I am all for a free market. I am all for allowing people to sell to who they want to; but always with the idea that America still comes first, and Americans are protected in the process; that we don't turn to the government to solve the problem that we are creating, and that we don't allow foreign nationals to affect our food supply because this would be catastrophic, both here and abroad, and would lead to wars, as we have seen over and over through the history of this world.

ONWARD ABRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the delivery of Abrams tanks to our European allies, including Ukraine. Let us fulfill any backup supply to assure NATO can check aggression by Russia anywhere on that continent.

Liberty for Ukraine needs no Neville Chamberlain moments. Delivering Abrams tanks will help Ukraine push toward victory sooner rather than later. Liberty's mission must be victory.

Russia's cruel and unprovoked war on Ukraine has produced a nation soaked in blood from one end to the other. Putin views weakness and appeasement as a recipe for failure.

Across Ohio, which I am privileged to represent, and the Great Lakes region, our fellow citizens and families have survived and often, too often, have fled oppression in central Europe at the hands of a predatory Russia.

We know the price of liberty. Our patriotic men and women in the United Auto Workers proudly manufacture the Abrams tank in Lima, Ohio. They guard liberty every day.

Our workers build the finest equipment in the world, so critical to victory. Americans know what brave Ukrainians are fighting for and against.

Hasn't enough innocent blood been spilled already?

Onward Abrams.

FAIRFAX FAILURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I was appalled to learn that multiple schools in Fairfax County, Virginia, withheld National Merit Scholarship commendation award letters from hundreds of students. This is a problem.

When political ideology stands in the way of students' success, it is a problem. When the pursuit of so-called equity starts harming students, it is a problem. When school bureaucrats hold students back to hide their own failures, it is a problem.

The education bureaucracy failed these students. These students deserve to be rewarded for their hard work, and these students deserve an education system that will lift them up, not try to keep them down.

These school administrators were trusted with the future of these students, and they broke that trust. Shame on them.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, one silver lining of the pandemic is that it pushed more high school students to take dual enrollment classes.

With the ever-rising cost of postsecondary education, dual enrollment programs are a great way for high school students to save on college costs. These programs allow advanced students to get a head start on their futures.

This is the case at Jefferson State Community College in Birmingham, Alabama, where high schoolers made up a third of the student body, according to NPR. These students are benefiting from extensive State expansion of a dual enrollment program. The more education innovation we have, the better.

Madam Speaker, we know that if a high school student takes at least one college-level course, that student is three times more likely to graduate from college than if the student didn't take a course.

We should give students as many opportunities as possible to shape their own education experience, and encouraging dual enrollment is one great way to do just that.

□ 1015

FILLING THE SKILLS GAP

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, it is no wonder we have a skills gap. For decades, people have been told that a bachelor's degree is the only path to a successful career. As a result, fewer and fewer young people are choosing to learn skilled trades.

Without skilled professionals, who will repair our roads, homes, and cars? We need these men and women who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty.